Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Prime Minister Vajpayee met on the sidelines of the Summit.

Bi-Annual DG-level BSF-BDR Meetings:

Held in New Delhi: 15—19 March 1999, 10—14 April 2000, 28 March-01 April, 2001; 28 October-2 November 2002.

Held in Dhaka: 24—28 October 1999; 21—26 October 2000; 22—25 March, 2002

Illegal migration of Indians

2397. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of Indians who are migrating to foreign countries illegally has been steadily increasing;

(b) if so, the number during the last three years along with the action taken against them; and

(c) whether Government had taken any action against the agents who have duped innocent persons of their hard earned money and if so, the number of such agents and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The requisite informaton is being collected from all Indian Missions/Posts abroad and other agencies concerned of the Government of India, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-US agreement for higher technology

†2398. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and America have entered into an agreement for mutual cooperation in higher technology;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date on which it was entered into;

(c) whether, in view of this agreement, India had sought American assistance for construction of atomic projects during the last six months; and

(d) if so, the reaction America's reaction in this regard and what kind of assistance India has received so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) India and United States signed a Statement of Principles to promote and facilitate bilateral high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies, on 05 February 2003 in Washington D.C.

(c) No.

(d) The two governments are engaged in a broad-based discussion on bilateral cooperation of mutual interest in civilian nuclear energy field, including the associated United States and International regulatory issues. The two sides have already initiated dialogue on five safety-related projects for nuclear power plants, which were proposed by India.

Undiplomatic liaisons by Ambassadors

2399. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Ambassadors were charged with undiplomatic liaisons and were recalled, as reported in the 'Hindusan Times' dated the 21st December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the charges;

(c) whether there had been similar instances earlier, if so, the deails thereof;

(d) whether Indian diplomats have some code of conduct to be observed abroad; and